

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /077 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/GCP:RLANDERS:JM

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CUSTOMS:DRAMSAY (PHONE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 100467

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, YO

SUBJECT: GSP CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

REFS: (A) (1975) STATE 303308; (B) (1975) STATE 302073;
(C) BELGRADE 2576; (D) BELGRADE 2616; (E) STATE 91874

1. WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME TRADERS HAVE EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES, MANY OF WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE USE OF UNCTAD FORM A CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN, IN IMPORTING PRODUCTS INTO THE U.S. UNDER GSP. WE ARE WORKING TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS WHERE THE USG IS AT FAULT AND, AS INDICATED REFTEL E, CUSTOMS STANDS READY TO HELP ANY TRADER WHO IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH A GSP SHIPMENT. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO QUICK AND EASY SOLUTION. CUSTOMS HAS ALREADY SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS FIELD PERSONNEL, BUT UNTIL THEY BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE OPERATION OF GSP AND/OR THE FORM A IS MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE U.S. SYSTEM, IT IS LIKELY THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE FACED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCH DIFFICULTIES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE POINT RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL C, WHILE REFTEL A SAID WE WOULD ACCEPT FORM A AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN, VIZ., WE WOULD NOT REQUIRE BENEFICIARY CURRENTLY WRITTEN, VIZ., WE WOULD NOT REQUIRE BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES TO PREPARE A NEW FORM JUST FOR THE U.S. GSP DURING THE SHORT PERIOD DURING WHICH THE UNCTAD FORM A WAS BEING REVISED, AT NO POINT DID WE SAY OR IMPLY THAT WE WERE WAIVING THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMPLETION OF FORM A DETAILED IN REFTEL B.

3. WITH REGARD TO REFTEL D, THERE IS NO "FORM A.1." THE OECD GROUP OF EXPERTS ON RULES OF ORIGIN IS NOW IN THE FINAL STAGES OF APPROVING MODIFICATIONS OF THE CURRENT FORM A TO REFLECT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE U.S. AND CANADIAN GSPS. WHEN THE OECD HAS AGREED ON THE CHANGES, THEY WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO THE UNCTAD WHICH IN TURN WILL HAVE TO PREPARE NEW TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES SO THEY CAN PRINT THE REVISED FORM. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO EXPEDITE THIS PROCESS BUT OBVIOUSLY IT IS NOT COMPLETELY UNDER OUR CONTROL.

4. WHILE WE DO NOT FEEL THAT ADDITIONAL GENERAL GUIDANCE ON THE GSP IS NECESSARY AT THIS POINT, EMBASSY BELGRADE MAY DRAW ON THE ABOVE MATERIAL IN EXPLAINING TO THE GOY THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF PROBLEMS WITH OUR GSP AND ARE DOING OUR BEST TO SOLVE THEM. HOWEVER, THE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM INVOLVES SOME MAJOR DEPARTURES FROM OUR PAST TARIFF REQUIREMENTS AND THERE WILL NECESSARILY BE A "BREAK IN" PERIOD DURING WHICH PERSONNEL ARE EDUCATED AND PROBLEMS WILL ARISE. SISCO

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